

## **Carlisle Conservation Commission**

Minutes

5/10/12

Approved July 19, 2012

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino, Lee Tatistcheff and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present.

### **7:30 – 8:00 PM Bills, General Agenda Items, and New/Pending or Old Business**

Minutes – The minutes of 3/08/12, 3/22/12, 4/12/12, and 4/26/12 were approved with revisions.

Emergency Certificate for Carlisle Public Library – Willard stated that an Emergency Certificate is needed in order to determine elevations of a septic pipe installed under a stream bed; the work will be overseen by Stamski & McNary. The investigation is for determining library septic needs as the current system has backed up recently. Tatistcheff moved to issue an Emergency Certificate, Brown seconded, and all voted in favor.

Elliott Preserve – Willard reported that she, Steve Tobin (Carlisle Conservation Foundation, CCF), Sally Swift (CCF), and Christa Collins (Sudbury Valley Trustees) will begin work on the LAND grant application, for which the deadline is July 12. Willard noted that Cory Atkins, State Representative, will be at Town Hall on May 11 and they will meet with her to ask Atkins for her support of the grant and to advise her on their progress in the land acquisition project.

142 Bedford Rd. Landscape Plan - Willard said that work on a landscaping project was initiated on the property without the filing of a Notice of Intent. The owners were contacted and a Notice of Intent is anticipated on Monday.

Garlic Mustard – Guarino noted that the invasive plant Garlic Mustard is growing along many roads, and she is concerned about the plant moving into areas away from the road. The plant is biennial, and sets seeds the second year. First year plants are often found near the second-year plants. Garlic Mustard plants are easy to pull out. Lynn Knight, a member of the SuAsCo CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) and present for a later discussion, said that the Town of Lincoln has an annual “Garlic Mustard Pull” day each spring. Lincoln provides compostable paper bags for disposal, and the DPW has a designated area for composting. Brownrigg asked if Garlic Mustard could be put in trash bags and taken to the Carlisle Transfer Station. According to Tatistcheff, our Transfer Station does not allow disposal of vegetative material which was determined during the tomato early blight of two years ago. Guarino said that she found information on the University of Wisconsin website that Garlic Mustard plants can be “weed-whacked” before they set seed. Guarino suggested that Carlisle have a Garlic Mustard Day next spring, similar to the annual Trash Party. It would be necessary to determine a proper disposal method before then. Knight volunteered to research disposal methods.

**8:00 – 8:20 PM Request for Determination, DOA-294; Applicant: Carlisle Conservation Foundation; Project Location: Map 5 Parcel 19 Lot 4, West St.; Project Description: Mowing a fallow field in accordance with a management plan with work within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within the 100-foot Buffer Zone.**

Steve Tobin and Lynn Knight of CCF were present for the discussion. Knight explained that the project involves the removal of the invasive plant Porcelain-berry and several other invasive plants from a field opposite the former Benfield residence on West St. The Request for Determination (RDA) will be for field mowing, prior to planned application of herbicide later in the summer; a second RDA will be filed later for herbiciding invasive plants. Guarino asked why they were filing an RDA if the field had been mowed in the past. Willard said that the field is fallow, and has not been mowed in many years. Willard visited the site and found that the far top right side is wet, with mottled soil (indicative of a wetland) and wetland plants. However, in Willard's opinion, it is not a Bordering Vegetated Wetland as the mottling did not continue down slope toward West Street and is therefore not jurisdictional. Bush asked why two RDAs are being filed and not one. Knight said that the field should be mowed soon, and that if the commission's determination were positive, a Notice of Intent would be required which would delay the mowing. Tobin noted that the Town holds the Conservation Restriction on the land, and the proposed work would require written permission. Bush, a member of the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee (CRAC) said that CRAC had discussed this project and determined that the work was appropriate and is consistent with the terms of the Conservation Restriction.

Brown moved to issue a Negative Determination, citing criterion B3. Brownrigg asked if this was the appropriate criterion, since according to Willard, the wetland in the field is not jurisdictional. Willard explained that part of the field is within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland located adjacent to and south of the field. Bush seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

**8:20 – 8:35 PM Notice of Intent, DEP-0917. Applicant: Peter & Melynda Gambino; Project Location: 280 Stoney Gate.; Project Description: Installation of an in-ground swimming pool with all work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone.**

Tatistcheff recused herself from the hearing. Markus Pinney and Peter Gambino were present to discuss the project. Gambino said that the swimming pool water will not be chlorinated, but that it will use a salt which releases chlorine into the pool; the chlorine is later converted back to a salt for reuse. This approach provides softer water and reduces the cost of chemicals. After construction, they will restore plantings along the back edge of the lawn. They will plant native shrubs such as azalea, rhododendron, etc. transplanted from other areas on the property. Burn noted that he has certain rhododendrons on his property that deer do not eat. Willard said that there is a disturbed area beyond the siltation barrier and upland of wetland flag #3, and suggested that the area be seeded and lightly mulched to prevent erosion. Bush asked what would become of excavate from pool construction. Gambino said that it would be used for regrading the area around the pool; the pool depth will be 6-8 ft.

Brown moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions: (1) there will be a fence installed closely around the pool attaching to the house and the garage and (2) the disturbed area near wetland flag #3 will be seeded and mulched. Ascolillo seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, Guarino moved that condition (3) be added, namely that the applicant be allowed to control invasive plants, provided he/she give notice to the commission prior to work. This was also to be a Continuing Condition for this property. Bush seconded the motion, and all voted in favor, except Tatistcheff, who abstained.

**8:35 – 8:45 PM Notice of Intent, DEP-XXX. Applicant: Kevin Quinlan; Project Location: 10 Applegrove Lane; Project Description: Removal of trees within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to create an open meadow.**

George Dimakarakos of Stamsky & McNary and Kevin Quinlan were present for the discussion. Dimakarakos stated that approximately 1.2 acres would be cleared. Clearing would not occur in an adjacent portion of the lot, for which there is a Conservation Restriction (CR) held by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF). The CR boundary is shown as a northerly/southerly straight line on the plan. Dimakarakos said that the original grade will be maintained after tree stumps are removed. Brownrigg asked why they planned to remove the stumps and Dimakarakos said that it is expensive to grind the stumps to below ground level (for mowing). Dimakarakos said that the CR boundary would be marked with a siltation barrier. Steve Tobin, President of CCF, said that he would like to make certain that the CR boundary is well marked in the field. Willard said that if the project involves an area equal to or greater than 1 acre, a SWPP (Storm Water Pollution Protection plan must be filed with the EPA. She noted that there are many rocks in the area intended to be a meadow and they along with the existing slope of the land would make mowing difficult. Site visits were scheduled for May 15 at 4:30 PM and May 17 at 6:30 PM. The hearing was continued to May 24 at 8:15 PM.

**8:45 – 9:25 PM General Agenda Items, and New/Pending or Old Business, continued**

Trash – Guarino suggested that the solar-powered trash compactor at Fern's convenience store be relocated to the Cranberry Bog, since there is so much trash left there. The compactor is owned by the Town, and Guarino will contact the Board of Selectmen. Regarding other conservation lands, Willard reported that the Towle parking lot is largely free of litter. There is some litter at the Greenough parking lot, but probably about the same amount as when there was a trash barrel. Both Towle and Greenough parking areas had trash barrels for over 20 years until removed last year to reduce costs.

Greenough barn – Brownrigg asked about the status of a potential user of the barn, as presented by Board of Selectmen member John Gorecki at a joint conservation committees meeting this past winter. Guarino said that she will contact Selectman Gorecki regarding this matter. Willard said that the potential user had called her soon afterward to ask whether there was a septic system and well on site; Willard said the well is still there although now underground.

Garlic Mustard in wetlands - Guarino asked if Garlic Mustard can be removed from wetlands without filing an RDA or NOI. Willard stated that according to the Westford Conservation Administrator, the Conservation Commission filed a "blanket" RDA to allow invasive plant

control in jurisdictional areas town wide, provided the property owner submitted a control plan that was reviewed by a town land trust member. The Negative Determination was not appealed.

Maintenance of field edges – Brown reported that he had visited the Land Stewardship Committee website for information on conservation lands that need clearing of brush along the edges, especially those with invasive plants. Willard suggested that the initial effort focus on the Foss Farm field along Bedford Road and nearer the Concord River, since the edge of the field along Bedford Rd. has an oriental bittersweet and other invasives. Brown was concerned about how this work could be budgeted, whether a Request for Proposal (RFP) is needed, and if there is a deadline for the RFP. Willard said that she will do an analysis of the budget for the May 24 meeting. Guarino suggested that the work be done by a non-profit organization that hires or involves youth. Willard noted that the Trails Committee removed trees and brush from Greenough Dam several years ago to prolong the life of the dam.

Cranberry Bog Coordination Committee - Guarino said that the next meeting is scheduled for May 29. Attorney Frank DiLuna has written a draft letter to the Chelmsford Water District regarding the proposed well field near the Chelmsford Cranberry Bog. Guarino and Selectman John Gorecki are editing the letter. Willard said she continues to check the EPA's Environmental Monitor website for applications and that the Chelmsford Water District has not filed an Environmental Notification Form as yet..

Towle Field Management for Invasive/nuisance plants – Brownrigg reported that Dick Shohet has hayed or mowed a portion of Towle field twice. Brownrigg requested that Willard contact Shohet and request that he (Shohet) notify Willard when he hays or mows the field.

### **9:25 – 9:45 PM Executive Session**

Guarino moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing commission personnel issues, and not to return to regular session afterwards. Bush seconded the motion and members voted as follows: Ascolillo, aye; Brown, aye; Brownrigg, aye; Burn, aye; Bush, aye; Guarino, yes; Tatistcheff, aye.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.